

TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Submitted by Diane Stevens, Town Secretary
July 25, 2016

Present: Mr. John Goerlach, Chair
Mr. Robert Ericson
Mr. Henry Sayers
Mr. Paul Sieloff, Town Manager

Warrants: Warrant Signed

The meeting was opened by John Goerlach at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

None.

Permit(s) / Contract(s) / Use of Town Property or Notification to Town of Community Event / Appointment(s)

Historical Commission Appointment – Kevin Towle

Mr. Sieloff informed the Board that Mary Reilly, Chair of the Historical Commission, had spoken with Mr. Towle and would like the Board to appoint him to the Commission. Motion 16-111. Motion made by Robert Ericson to appoint Kevin Towle to the Historical Commission for a term to expire on July 30, 2017, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0.

Police Advisory Review Commission – Proposed Part-time Police Officer Appointments

Police Chief Timothy Sorrell presented Lucas Perry and David Hill to the Board. Chief Sorrell stated that he and the Police Advisory Commission had interviewed 5 candidates and the gentlemen presented were their final candidates. Chief Sorrell stated they would be a good fit for the Department and asked the Board if they would appoint them. Motion 16-112. Motion made by Robert Ericson to appoint Lucas Perry as a Part-Time Police Officer for the Town of Lanesborough, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. Motion 16-113. Motion made by Robert Ericson to appoint David Hill as a Part-Time Police Officer for the Town of Lanesborough, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. The Board congratulated them and welcomed them to the Town.[#1]

Recognition of Lanesborough Bulldogs – Cal Ripken Western Mass. State Champions

The Board wanted to publically congratulate the Lanesborough Bulldogs as Cal Ripken Western Mass. State Champions. Coach Rick Paris stated this is the second year in a row they have won. Mr. Goerlach asked how far they have traveled for games. Coach Paris stated that the team is going to Tennessee next week. The Board wished the team luck at their Tennessee tournament.

Charter Communications – Tom Cohan

Mr. Sieloff introduced Tom Cohan from Charter Communications. Mr. Cohan announced that Charter is in the process of building out its service throughout the Town and it will be available to residents beginning in August 2016. Mr. Cohan stated that there will be over 200 HD channels. Mr. Cohan acknowledged that there has been a challenge with obtaining new boxes before the August 1st deadline and on August 9 there will be internet services available with 60 MB and 100 MB of service for residential customers and business will have the capability of having speeds up to 10 G. Mr. Cohan stated that he hopes this will boost the economic development within the Town and help property values. Telephone services will not be available until mid-September as Charter is still in negotiations. Mr. Cohan also stated that Charter has been working with MBI to extend services to the parts of Town that they do not currently serve and that MBI will help fund the build out to those residents. Mr. Cohan is hopeful that the number of customers will increase with these new services. Charter will offer direct fiber connection to the Town's local channel which will give a better signal. Mr. Goerlach asked if this fiber connection service will be available for all Town buildings. Mr. Cohan stated that it will only be available for Town Hall but all municipal buildings will receive free service. Mr. Goerlach stated that the Fire Chief would like to switch over as the internet speed is slow at the Fire Station. Mr. Sayers stated that it has been difficult to get through to personnel at Charter to acquire the new boxes which will be necessary for the August 1st deadline.

Mr. Cohan stated that there may be hiccups and asked for everyone to be patient through this transition. Mr. Sayers asked if Mr. Cohan could set up a location in Town to pick up boxes. Mr. Cohan stated that West Stockbridge asked the same question and he checked into this and it could not be done. Mr. Cohan also stated that Charter could come to residences. Mr. Sayers stated that there is a fee to do this. Mr. Cohan stated it was a reduced fee. Mr. Ericson asked if there was a map depicting where service will be provided. Mr. Cohan stated he would get this to the Board. Mr. Sayers asked if there were new pricing available. Mr. Cohan stated for the time being it will be the same. Mr. Sayers asked when residents would know when internet services will be available. Mr. Cohan stated that robo-calls will be made and letters will be sent out. Mr. Goerlach gave Mr. Cohan a letter from a resident on Victoria Lane informing the Board about damage that was done while Charter was trenching for new cable. Mr. Cohan stated that he would make sure this was taken care of.[#2] Mr. Goerlach asked Mr. Cohan to keep the Board apprised of all on-going work and dates of services so that the Board can get information to Town residents.

Lanesborough Electronics and Bulky Waste Collection – proposed September 24, 2016

The Board announced that the date for the Bulky Waste Collection would be Saturday, September 24, 2016 at the Lanesborough Highway Department. The Board will announce the time at their next meeting once it has been established.

CAI Technologies Contract – Board of Assessors

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with the GIS Internet Services Maintenance Agreement for the Assessor's Office for the period of 9/27/16 through 9/27/17 for their approval and signature. Mr. Goerlach and Mr. Ericson stated that the system is not very user friendly. Mr. Sieloff asked Mr. Ericson to stop in and they could speak with Assessor. Mr. Sieloff stated that they would continue matter to the next meeting after they have spoken with the Assessor. [#3]

Quarterly review of Board's Open Projects List

Mr. Goerlach passed over item until next meeting.[#4]

Janus Property Easement

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a proposed Grant of Drainage Easement relative to property of John W. Janus and Susan L. Janus located at 39 Sunrise Street. Mr. Sieloff stated that there is a pipe which runs under a resident's house that needs to be moved. Motion 16-115. Motion made by Robert Ericson accept the Grant of Drainage Easement for 39 Sunrise Street, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 2-0. John Goerlach abstained from vote.[#5]

Assistant Inspector of Buildings position

Mr. Sieloff stated that with Rick Reid being appointed to Building Inspector a vacancy exists for the Assistant Inspector. Jonathan Flagg, the candidate who applied for the building inspector position, is interested in the assistant position. Motion 16-116. Motion made by Henry Sayers to appoint Jonathan Flagg as the Assistant Building Inspector, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 3-0.

Economic development and promotion / Proposed Economic Development Committee

Mr. Sieloff stated that within a month or so the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will have hired someone who will be working for the Town to enhance its economic development. Mr. Sieloff is hoping that this candidate can create a current business directory which will benefit the Town. Mr. Sieloff stated that he will keep the Board apprised. Mr. Sieloff stated that he and Mr. Sayers went to meeting last weekend at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts regarding regional development services which was very informative. Mr. Sieloff stated that the new hire will be available to help attract new businesses or help existing businesses who wish to expand services and help them navigate through Town departments and processes. Mr. Goerlach said it would be beneficial to create a checklist for businesses. Mr. Goerlach stated that he would also like to form a 5 member Economic Development Committee. Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with proposed Bylaws for the formation of an Economic Development Committee for the Board's review and approval. Mr. Sayers would like the new hire to come on board before a committee is formed. Motion 16-117. Motion made by John Goerlach to approve the Bylaws of the Economic Development Committee with proposed changes to be made at the next meeting, seconded by Robert Ericson.

Motion carried 3-0. Motion 16-118. Motion made by John Goerlach to create a 5 member Economic Development Committee, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. Henry Sayers abstained. Mr. Sieloff asked the Town Secretary to put a notice on the television station and the Town's website asking for volunteers for this Committee. [#6]

Proposal to site Mount Greylock Superintendent's Office in Lanesborough Elementary School

Mr. Sayers stated the Lanesborough Elementary School Committee expressed that they were not in favor of this proposal at their last meeting. Mr. Sieloff stated that he has not heard back from the Superintendent. Mr. Ericson would like to send the letter to the Lanesborough Elementary School Committee. Mr. Sieloff stated that he would send a letter to begin communication. Mr. Goerlach stated that he would also like to send a letter to the Committee stating that the Board was disappointed with their attitude and negative comments when they are only trying to save the Town money. Mr. Sieloff will add Mr. Goerlach's concerns in this letter as well.

Potential future Sunrise Street construction projects / gas pipeline

Mr. Goerlach reported that Berkshire Gas informed him that 11 residents have agreed to the gas installation but 15 were needed. Mr. Goerlach stated that this project would not affect the paving project on the street as the pipeline would go along the left side of the street and if they needed to cross the street it would be done by direct boring. Mr. Goerlach stated that Berkshire Gas also has to obtain signed contracts for services so it may not be until spring when work for installation of gas would begin.

Hampshire Council of Governments Technology Services

Mr. Sieloff stated that the Board wanted him to report on the status of the Town's IT services. Mr. Sieloff stated that they are up to date on back up services and virus protection. Mr. Sieloff stated that the Finance Committee will all receive new email addresses and he has been very happy with the company's services and professionalism.

Hobomack/Opeechee Safety Issue

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a Memorandum from DPW Director Decelles relative to the intersection. DPW Director Decelles stated that the homeowner has trimmed the bushes back far enough so motorists can see approaching traffic which eliminates the safety issues. [#7]

Town Accountant position

Mr. Sieloff informed the Board that he had met with Paul Lisi last week relative to the position and presented Mr. Lisi to the Board. Mr. Sieloff stated that Mr. Lisi has a good level of experience and is willing to work with the current Town Accountant on her last week with the Town. Mr. Lisi gave the Board a list of his credentials. Mr. Ericson asked if he would be overloaded by working for yet another town. Mr. Lisi stated that he would resign from one or possibly two other towns he currently works in. Mr. Sieloff stated that Mr. Lisi's hours will be Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Monday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for a total of 34 hours per week and he could begin working full time on August 22nd. Mr. Sieloff stated that Mr. Lisi's references spoke very highly of him. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board if they wished to authorize him to sign the Town Accountant contract once it was approved by Town Counsel. Mr. Ericson stated that the Town is overrun with paper and asked if there was something that could be done to reduce this. Mr. Lisi stated that he would have to research this before he can make any recommendations. Motion 16- 114. Motion made by John Goerlach to hire Paul Lisi as the Town Accountant and give Mr. Sieloff the authority to sign the a contract when approved by Town Counsel, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 3-0. [#8]

Other business which could not have been reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of the meeting.

None.

Selectmen's Items

Mr. Sayers asked about the status of repairing the front steps of Town Hall. Mr. Goerlach stated that it would cost between \$7,000 to \$10,000 to have drawings done, move the hand rails and patch the stairs. Mr. Goerlach would like to patch the stairs for now with the price that was given by Jeff Albert and have the stairs completely renovated at a later date. Motion 16-119. Motion made by Henry Sayers to patch the stairs in front of Town Hall, seconded by

Robert Ericson. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board their thoughts about replacing windows in Town Hall as they are very inefficient and some snow drifts in to the building during winter months. Mr. Goerlach would like to ask the Historical Commission what they would like to see installed, wood or vinyl. Mr. Goerlach would also like to address the drainage issue on the front lawn of Town Hall. Mr. Goerlach would like to ask the new Building Inspector if he would allow windows to be changed without an engineer's drawings.

Town Manager Report

None.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Minutes of July 11, 2016, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. Mr. Goerlach did not attend this meeting. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Minutes of July 18, 2016, seconded by John Goerlach. Motion carried 2-0. Mr. Ericson did not attend this meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Henry Sayers, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:33p.m.

Footnotes:

- [#1] Lucas Perry & David Hill Resume & Police Advisory Review Commission recommendation letter
- [#2] Email regarding Charter Communications property repair
- [#3] Proposed CAI Technologies Contract – Board of Assessors
- [#4] Selectmen's Open Project List
- [#5] Proposed Grant of Drainage Easement - John W. Janus and Susan L. Janus - 39 Sunrise Street
- [#6] Proposed Economic Development Committee Bylaws
- [#7] DPW Director Memorandum
- [#8] Paul Lisi Cover Letter and Resume